

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY SIGNS BILLS TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

RALEIGH - Gov. Mike Easley today signed Senate Bills 226, 993, 919 and House Bills 152 and 926, legislation to protect children and families in North Carolina.

"I wanted to sign all of these bills today because they are all important in protecting our children and families in North Carolina," said Easley. "They make sure that our children are safe in child care, in their schools and in their homes."

SB 226 ("Kaitlyn's Law") is *An Act To Prohibit The Administration Of Medication To A Child In A Licensed Or Unlicensed Child Care Facility Without Proper Authorization From The Child's Parent Or Guardian*. It will make it a felony if the employee gives medicine without permission, if the action seriously injures the child; if the child were unharmed, it would be a misdemeanor. This legislation came as the result of the tragic death of Kaitlyn Shevlin, who died at the age of five months after her day care provider gave her Benadryl without permission.

HB 152 is *An Act To Require Child Care Facilities To Develop And Maintain A Safe Sleep Policy That Includes Requiring Caregivers To Place Children On Their Back To Sleep To Reduce The Risk Of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), And To Require Certain Agencies And The Medical Community To Cooperate In Investigating Reports Of Child Abuse And Neglect In Child Care Facilities*. Placing children on their backs to sleep is a position credited with cutting the national SIDS rate in half over the past decade. This bill will help to protect the 16,000 infants in childcare in North Carolina.

HB 926 is *An Act To Enhance The Penalty For An Assault In The Presence Of A Minor*. It requires anyone convicted of assault in the presence of a minor to be subject to supervised probation in addition to any other penalties ordered by the courts.

SB 993 is *An Act To Enhance The Ability Of The State Board Of Education To Safeguard Schoolchildren Through Automatic Revocation Of Teacher Certificates Upon Conviction Of Certain Crimes, And The Use Of Investigative Services As Needed*.

SB 919 is *An Act To Enhance The Safety Of Victims In Serious Domestic Violence Cases*. It prohibits a person subject to an emergency or ex parte order in a domestic violence case from possessing or purchasing a firearm.

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